

## Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 FBIE-00  
DHA-02 NSC-05 SY-05 /028 W  
-----087075 071430Z /43  
P 070835Z JUL 77  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5641  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

UNCLAS HONG KONG 7842

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CASC (PACE, STEPHEN AUGUSTUS, 3RD)  
SUBJECT: W/S STEPHEN AUGUSTUS PACE, 3RD

REF: STATE 155831

1. THE MATTER OF PACE'S WHEREABOUTS HAS TAKEN WHAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE AN IMPROBABLE TURN. ON SATURDAY, JULY 2, THE HONG KONG POLICE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM A MR. SUNERSLY, WHO SAID HE WAS A LAWYER IN LONG BEACH AND AN ASSOCIATE OF PACE. SUNERSLY (THE NAME AS WELL AS THE SPELLING IS UNCERTAIN INASMUCH AS THE OFFICER TAKING THE CALL THREW AWAY HIS NOTES) ASKED THAT POLICE INVESTIGATE THE MATTER OF PACE'S KIDNAPPING IN HONG KONG. ACCORDING TO SUNERSLY, PACE LEFT THE U.S. WITH \$1000, BUT AS A RESULT OF HIS STAY IN TOKYO, HE WAS IN POSSESSION OF \$10,000, AND THIS MAY BE THE REASON FOR HIS KIDNAPPING. SUNERSLY WENT ON TO SAY HE HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM HONG KONG (HE DID NOT SAY FROM WHOM AND THE POLICE OFFICER ASSUMED IT CAME FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL) THAT PACE WAS BEING HELD ON A BOAT IN THE VICINITY OF HONG KONG. THE POLICE OFFICER, HAVING DOUBTS ABOUT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CALL, REQUESTED SUNERSLY TO RELAY THE REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION THROUGH THE CONSULATE GENERAL. BEFORE ENDING THE CALL, SUNERSLY ASKED TO BE PROVIDED WITH THE NAMES  
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AND ADDRESSES OF SEVERAL PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCIES IN HONG KONG AND THE NAMES OF THREE AGENCIES WERE GIVEN HIM.

2. IN DISCUSSING MATTER WITH POLICE, THEY SAID THEY WERE PREPARED TO INVESTIGATE AT REQUEST OF CONSULATE GENERAL, BUT WHEN INFORMED OF STEPS TAKEN BY CONGEN

TO LOCATE PACE, THEY SAID THEY COULD DO LITTLE MORE AND, ALSO, THEY WERE ILL-EQUIPPED IN MANPOWER TO MOUNT SEARCH FOR HIM. THEY ALSO HAVE CONSIDERABLE MISGIVINGS ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED IN WHAT MIGHT BE A HOAX, ESPECIALLY AT SUNERSLY DID NOT RESPOND TO POLICE REQUEST THAT CONGEN BE ASKED TO HAVE POLICE MAKE INVESTIGATION.

3. WHEN INITIAL W/W TELGRAM RECEIVED, WE TELEPHONED, AMONG OTHERS, PAN AMERICAN, INASMUCH AS PACE HOLDING PANAM TICKET. THEY WERE ASKED TO SEARCH RECORDS FOR RESERVATION OR RECORD OF TRAVEL HONG KONG - BANGKOK OR RECORD PACE HAD ASKED TICKET BE ENDORSED OVER TO ANOTHER CARRIER INASMUCH AS STATE 146603 NOTED HE WAS TO TRAVEL PANAM TO BANGKOK. SEARCH WAS NEGATIVE. PANAM ALSO CHECKED WITH CATHAY PACIFIC IN EFFORT CONFIRM HE ARRIVED ON CX 523 ON MAY 26 AND, ALSO, IF HE MIGHT NOT HAVE CONTINUED ON TO BANGKOK VIA CARRIER. PANAM REPORTED BOTH CHECKS NEGATIVE. WE THEN ASKED HONG KONG IMMIGRATION TO MAKE COMPREHENSIVE SEARCH OF THEIR RECORDS. REQUEST FOR SAME WAS MADE AT SENIOR LEVEL. WHEN WE WERE INFORMED THERE WAS NO RECORD OF PACE HAVING ENTERED OR LEFT HONG KONG, WE NOTED EMBASSY TAIPEI REPORTED PACE HAVING LEFT FOR HONG KONG ON MAY 26 VIA CATHAY PACIFIC FLIGHT CX 523. IN REPLY, WE WERE TOLD  
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT'S COMPUTER WAS NOT "INFALLIBLE."

4. UPON RECEIPT REFTTEL, WE CHECKED DIRECT WITH CATHAY PACIFIC TO ASK THAT THEY AGAIN SEARCH THEIR RECORDS. THE REPORTED ARRIVAL MANIFEST OF CX 523 FLIGHT CONTAINED NAME THAT COULD BE READ "S. PACE " OR "S. PAO," SINCE THE SURNAME IS SOMEWHAT ILLEGIBLE. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE PACE AS THE RECORD SHOWS TRAVELLER WAS HOLDING A PANAM TICKET.

5. WE HAVE ASKED IMMIGRATION TO CHECK THEIR RECORDS AGAIN. ASSUMING THAT PACE DID IN FACT ENTER HONG KONG AND THAT IMMIGRATION ARE NOT IN ERROR IN INFORMING US THERE IS NO RECORD OF HIS HAVING LEFT, PACE MUST BE STILL IN COLONY. INASMUCH AS POLICE ARE NOT DISPOSED TO MOUNT SEARCH FOR HIM, WE ARE AT AN IMPASSE. WE SIH TO BE HELPFUL, BUT AT THIS JUNCTURE, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT MORE WE CAN DO. CAN PACE FAMILY AND/OR ASSOCIATES SHED ANY LIGHT ON THE JULY 2 CALL TO POLICE? ALSO, IS THERE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE PACE MIGHT HAVE REASON TO "DROP

OUT" OF SOCIETY BY REASON OF FAMILY, BUSINESS OR  
FINANCIAL PROBLEMS? IF SO, THIS COULD BE DONE  
IN HONG KONG FOR, AS POLICE NOTED, HE COULD REMAIN  
HERE INDEFINITELY WITHOUT COMING TO ATTENTION OF  
THE AUTHORITIES PROVIDED HE STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.  
SUGGEST DEPARTMENT QUERY FOUR AMERICANS WITH PACE  
IN TAIPEI FOR ANY LEADS THEY MIGHT OFFER, SUCH  
AS A CHANGE OF TRAVEL PLANS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** CASC, (PACE, STEPHEN AUGUSTUS III)  
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